

ROTARY CLUB OF HONOLULU
ROYAL HAWAIIAN HOTEL MONARCH ROOM
DATE: FEBRUARY 11 2020
PRESIDING: PRESIDENT PAUL SAITO

President Paul Saito called the meeting to order at noon.

Reese Liggett inspired us by sharing the importance of a 'Great First Impression' and set us straight on what makes a 'Great American Business Handshake' versus myths of a handshake. After giving us instruction on how to give a proper handshake, the members were encouraged to practice shaking hands with those to their left and right. What makes a great handshake those of you who missed out may be asking?

1. Glance at your target and raise your thumb
2. Go all the way to web-to-web
3. And palm-to-palm – don't be a cupper in your palm
4. Wrap your thumb over the top
5. And curve your fingertips with subtle pressure under their hand
6. Shake twice with eye contact
7. And separate.

You have now just made a Great First Impression!

Tom Coyne led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Sumner Howard** and **Lyla Berg** led us in singing *America the Beautiful*, accompanied by **Craig Robinson**.

Rick Tabor introduced visitors, which were many: Jim Flood (guest of **Walter Flood**), Luke Assenmacher (guest of **Gerald Clay**), Mike Yee (guest of **Tom Coyne**), Julia Allen (guest of **Robyn McCreary**), Jan Henderson & Mark Mitchell (Anchorage South Hillside Rotary), **Jesse Lopez** (future member), Elke, the mother of guest speaker Denis Salle, and a few others who came late.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Birthday wishes to **Judy Lind** (02/12) and **Mike Herb** (02/15).
- Club Anniversary Acknowledgments to **Nancy Grekin**, 12 years, sponsored by **Pam Chambers**; **Dave Shanahan**, 14 years, sponsored by **Jim Lackey**; **Jack Lockwood** 38 years, sponsored by **Jim Wreston**; **Geoff Seymour**, 38 years, sponsored by **Phil Whitney**. **Congratulations!**
- **President Paul** reminded everyone to sign up for the Paul Harris Events.
- **Ron Tsukamaki** announced and asked members to sign up to help with the RATPACK PROJECT at Palolo District Park, February 15. Sign-up sheets were on tables. There is a need for more help! About 200 kids are expected to participate.
- **Dawn Marie** announced HLCF Grant has money to share, so please contact her. If you know an organization or facility that operates under their 2020 theme, "Ocean Awareness" – they can go to give.hawaiiilife.com to complete an application. There is \$25,000 to give away each year.

- **Rick Tabor** announced he was on the Hawaii Morning show to promote the Hearing Aid program and any interested to see the clip can contact him for it. RYLA is this coming weekend, Friday-Sunday. The team members did go through safety training. Those who wish to donate food items, contact Rick.
- **Tom Coyne** thanked those who volunteered to serve over 2,000 at the Hawaii Winter 2020 Beer Fest on Saturday, Feb. 8 – asked those in attendance to stand and called out their names in recognition. There were several who were friends or spouses of Rotarians who also received recognition. This is a great fundraiser and a lot of fun! **Tom** asks us to mark our calendars for the next Beer Fest on June 27!
- **Don Anderson** conducted Foundation Annual Meeting information. He called the annual meeting to order per the bylaws.
 - All RCOH members are voting members for the Rotary Club of Honolulu Foundation.
 - The RCOH Foundation is a tax-exempt entity under the IRS and the funds can only be used for charitable purposes. The components of the fund are the John Warren fund (annual work domestically and overseas), Maile Hale fund (permanent endowment), and the Will J. Henderson Scholarship fund (invested with Maile Hale fund).
 - Foundation funds are raised by our annual campaign each year conducted by the members.
 - Members are encouraged to include the RCOH Foundation in their estate planning. If you have questions ask **Don Anderson** or another Trustee of the Foundation.
 - 9 trustees elected by the members guide this foundation; three classes of three trustees, each lasting for three years.
 - The foundation is doing very well due to the generosity of members and favorable investment client.
 - Financial breakdown was given for the years 2005, 2010, 2015, and the current year. We are now \$3,000 short of \$2 million, but feel we will reach it. Some of the funds came from non-members, as well as through the Service Above Self.
 - Current Trustee members are thanked for their service: **Joanna Amberger, Don Anderson, Carolann Beiderman, Nancy Pace, Carol Sakata, Rick Towill**. New Trustee board members nominated to serve from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023, are voted in: **Hiroko Dewitz, Nancy White, Tracey Wiltgen**.

GUEST SPEAKER

Denis Salle is humorously introduced by **Mel Kaneshige** who stated they are “drinking buddies” as in “coffee” not “alcohol” where most mornings they are found at The Curb.

Denis Salle, is the Founder and CEO of *ec3* and *Honorary Consul for Germany in Hawaii* since 2012. While born in Germany, he attended Kahuku and other Hawaii schools. His wife Nadine is Chief of Pediatrics at Queen’s. He and his wife went to Samoa to help

give Measles vaccine. **Denis'** goal is to educate Hawaii about the rich history of Germans in Hawaii.

Denis spoke about Germans in Hawaii, which for him is a historical issue going back at least 50 years. His slide show presented pictures of German sailors, the crew of the Gaia Imperial Vessel from WWI, at Honolulu Harbor. Within two years they went from free to incarceration at Schofield Barracks.

It begins with Colonialism and the Berlin Conference, in 1884, where it was decided that Africa should be divided up in a more organized fashion. Three islands were chosen to be taken - Samoa, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea – but Denis was unsure how that was decided.

In 1849, with shipping trade, Hackfeld & Co. came to Hawaii and settled in the Islands to do business. The Germans kept a tight circle. Article II allowed many to stay. Additionally, the sugar boom brings many over for work.

Many of the German names of Hawaii's past are: Hackfeld, Hillebrand, Isenberg, von Chamisso, Lemke, Pflueger, Scheffer, Spreckels, and Zimmermann. Kauai's main town, Lihue was once nicknamed "German Town" and had German Lutheran churches and schools. There is also an area called "German Hill".

Claus Spreckels arrived in 1876 after the passage of the Reciprocity Treaty of 1875. He set up shop on Maui, created a town named Spreckelsville, and founded the Spreckels Sugar Company around 1878. Interesting fact, Hackfeld and Spreckels were not friends and do not appear to have worked together.

Kaiser Wilhelm hid the fact that his left arm was much shorter than his right arm due to his dramatic birth, where the doctor pulled him out by his arm, severing nerves causing stunted growth. His mother tortured him his entire life with things such as taking a live rabbit, killing it in front of him and then tying the dead rabbit to his arm thinking it would regrow nerves.

Japanese and English made a pact so the Japanese decided to chase the Germans out of Hawaii. The Germans came to Hawaii seeking asylum. The ship, Gaia, was chased by the Japanese. The Gaia's boiler is broken and barely made it to Honolulu Harbor, where they ask for safety under neutrality rules. Eventually the ship, Gaia is handed over to the Territory of Hawaii, and the sailors ended up staying in Hawaii for two and a half years.

Hildebrand was a German physician, botanist, and became the appointed physician to the royal family of King Kamehameha IV in 1858.

This all took place between the late 1800's and the early 1900's.

That is just some tidbits from our guest speaker, Denis Salle. His talk was full of rich history and amazing information that makes for some interesting Hawaiian history!

President Paul asked **Denis** to sign a book that will be donated to Palolo Elementary.

Lyla and **Bub** let us in closing song of *Hawaii Aloha*.
Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Mahalo,
Lee LaBrash